

Mr. John Adelman
533 Lowell
Dubuque, IA 52001

7/9/92

Dear Mr. Adelman,

Thanks for sending me the copy of the very good job your class did in its story for the June 15 paper.

There are college people who do not do as well as your high school class.

And they did not make anything up. Every thing they wrote has a given source.

Too many are not this particular and just make up what they want to be taken as legitimate criticism of the Warren Report. Or they embellish upon what they've read or heard. Your students were faithful to their sources, which I am familiar with.

There is a caution I hope you will give them because having done all the work this fine article represents: I do not want them to be disillusioned. And perhaps they can learn something from what I tell you for them.

In common with many others they recommend a letter-writing campaign to "Demand that the sealed JFK files be released." This they say is because "we can no longer wait to hear the ~~dark~~ truth."

This tells me that they were influenced by Oliver Stone, whose purposeⁱⁿ the campaign he started was to build his own reputation after severe criticism of what he did to exploit and commercialize the assassination and to promote his movie and himself.

Because this crime itself was never really investigated officially there is ~~not~~ no smoking gun in any secret files. Moreover, only two percent of the Warren Commission's records are withheld and I believe all or just about all should be because they hold unsubstantiated information that can damage innocent people and to a small degree because they are claimed to hold national security information, a much abused reason that is sometimes legitimate.

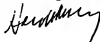
While we have no way of knowing what records agencies like the FBI and CIA have that have not been disclosed, an enormous volume of these records is and for years has been available. I alone got about 250,000 pages from the FBI alone *by FOIA requests*.

And to give your students a reading on Oliver Stone, although he knew that - make them available to all who write on the subject, he had no interest in them and did not ask for as little as a single page. Or for any part of his theories to be checked against them.

Certainly all withheld records that can properly be disclosed should be but people ought not expect anything like a smoking gun in them.

What is more likely is that they hold information that can be embarrassing to the various agencies.

But your young people did very well. I tip my hat to them!



Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg